

## **Global Potential for Developing Sri Lanka-China Relations**

*Shalika R. Dias*<sup>1</sup>

Growing interactions and interdependency among states have led to complex international relations. All states are striving to achieve their own national interests and it has paved the way for cooperative and conflicting relations among states. These circumstances continue and they generate new global challenges and trends. China-Sri Lanka relations exist in this backdrop. The nature of the international system has a direct impact on bilateral relations since states exist in a globalized world. However, most research studies on the direction of future Sri Lanka-China bilateral relations address only internal situations in terms of politics and socio-economy of both countries. The research problem of this study is how global challenges and trends have an impact on Sri Lanka-China bilateral ties and how both countries can utilize them as opportunities to develop bilateral relations. The study discusses three global challenges and trends that have an impact on Sri Lanka-China relations – the global liberal economic system, power politics of Asian and non-Asian states and non-traditional security threats such as terrorism, piracy, drug trafficking and arms trafficking. The object of the research is to find out precautions for the above mentioned global challenges and trends, and propose sensible recommendations that can be utilized to develop bilateral ties while avoiding negative effects. The research is based on primary and secondary sources. Speeches delivered by Sri Lankan professionals at seminars conducted by the Bandaranaike Centre for International Studies (BCIS) on the internal situation of Sri Lanka and China and the current status of bilateral relations will be used as primary sources. Printed and electronic books, journals, newspaper articles written on the nature of the globalized world, global economy, diplomacy and activism of

non-state actors will be utilized as secondary sources. Qualitative research methods are applied for the research. The study points out that it is not sufficient to consider only the internal status of Sri Lanka and China in order to conduct cooperative relations. Since global challenges and trends continue to grow, Sri Lanka and China have to face positive and negative effects when sustaining bilateral ties. However if both countries realize the situation and pursue strategies as precautions against negative impact, it will enable countries to use these strategies as opportunities. It is advantageous for both countries to achieve long term cooperation and improve bilateral relations.

**Keywords:** interdependency, national interest, global liberal economy, power politics, non-traditional security threats